

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Mr. Clerk. We'll now proceed to Item 5 and legislative resolutions. Senator Withem is not here so we will pass over LR 91 and we'll go to LR 92.

CLERK: Mr. President, LR 92, offered by Senator Hillman, found on page 1956 of the Journal.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members, I'm especially pleased to bring the resolution this morning on a program called Odyssey of the Mind and not to compare programs, but we've done quite a bit in the last few weeks and months on those athletic excellence, teams that have come down for different state tournaments and this is a group of young people who also have been in competition and have proved their excellence and will be going to a national convention. Just a little bit of background about Odyssey of the Mind, it was formally Olympics of the Mind. It is an exciting competition for students which combine team competition with mental creativity. Students strive for excellence as they work to solve problems which must be solved by the team, not by parents or coaches. Odyssey of the Mind encourages the use of creativity, humor and futuristic thinking skills and adds the challenge of designing, constructing and presenting the solutions to the problems. The purpose of Odyssey of the Mind is to teach students creative problem solving skills. Odyssey of the Mind changes one's paradigms, creating a broader perspective when teaching, when trying to reach a solution to a problem. Students realize at an early age that there is more than one right answer in problem solving, creating a greater acceptance of contrasting viewpoints. The Odyssey of the Mind competition has grown tremendously in Nebraska in the last 10 years and right now we have 13 teams from Nebraska schools who will participate in the world finals of the Odyssey of the Mind academic competition June 1 through the 6th in Baltimore, Maryland. Three teams are from Papillion-LaVista High School while Springville Elementary in Omaha and Arbor Park Middle School in Blair will each send two teams. Other Nebraska teams will come from Keiwick Middle School in Omaha, Holy Family High School in Lindsay, Potter-Dix Middle School, Wahoo Westward Elementary, Holdrege Middle School and Westmore Elementary School in Scottsbluff. I would ask the members to support this amendment and those young people who are what I'm sure can be very proud of and in looking at the kinds